

## SCOTTISH BOTANISTS' CONFERENCE

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

- 08.30 Exhibitors' setting up  
09.15 General Arrival – tea & coffee
- 10.00 Welcome** – Pete Hollingsworth, RBGE Director of Science  
10.05 Update on the Scottish Plant Strategy – Pete Hollingsworth, RBGE Director of Science  
10:10 Teaming up science and horticulture to restore the Small Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum sylvaticum*) in Scotland – Aline Finger, RBGE Molecular Ecologist, & Jenny Baker, RBGE Horticulture  
10:40 Genomic barcodes for identifying complex species – Connie Simon-Nutbrown, RBGE Post-doctoral Researcher  
11.00 Morning Coffee & Tea
- 11.30 President's words** – Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, BSBI President  
11.35 An update on BSBI's projects and future plans – Julia Hanmer, BSBI Chief Executive  
11:50 Student researcher flash talks
- 12.05 BSBI Scottish Annual General Meeting – David Elston, BSBI Chair of Committee for Scotland  
12.25 Lunch and view exhibits
- 13.15 Mini-workshops: First session**  
**14.15 Mini-workshops: Second session**
- 15.15 Afternoon Tea & Coffee
- 15.45 The latest from the Botanical Society of Scotland** – Jonathan Silvertown, BSS President  
16.00 Clinging on: A year in the life of a mountain botanist – Lewis Donaghy, NTS  
16.15 Woolly warriors – tackling giant hogweed using sheep grazing – Callum Sinclair, Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI)  
16.30 The curious tale of *Rhododendron ponticum* – Richard Milne, BSS & University of Edinburgh  
16.55 Comfort Break
- 17.10 An Inch of Moss: Learning from the Cairngorms Rare Plants Project about Pinewood Specialists and their Niches** – Sam Jones, Plantlife Scotland  
17.35 BSBI Photographic Competition results  
17.40 Closing remarks  
17.50 Close of conference
- 18.30 Conference Dinner** – Loon Fung Cantonese Restaurant, pre-bookings only

Mini-workshops	Leader
Starting with <i>Euphrasia</i> Identification	Chris Metherell, BSBI <i>Euphrasia</i> Referee
Ferns for Beginners	Heather McHaffie, British Pteridological Society
How to take photos for Bramble identification	Angus Hannah, BSBI Scottish Brambles Referee
Introduction to <i>Sphagnum</i>	Oliver Moore, British Bryological Society
Using Your Smartphone for Botanical Imaging	Rich Wilson, BSS Publicity Officer
Making the most of herbaria – digital catalogues, detective desk and 'Rum Affair' display	Elspeth Haston, RBGE Deputy Herbarium Curator, & RBGE Herbarium team
Using the BSBI Recording App	James Drever & Tom Humphrey, BSBI Data Team
Intro to the BSBI's Plant Distribution Database	Matt Harding, BSBI Scotland Officer

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**Thank you for booking on the 2024 Scottish Botanists' Conference! Here is information for the day:**

**Location:** Here are some instructions on [how to get to the conference](#), in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's Science Buildings on Inverleith Row. Note that you will NOT be able to get from The Gateway or the East Gate through the gardens to the Science Buildings.

**Registration:** On arriving, please pick up your name badge and any copies of the Programme, List of Participants & Abstracts you require at the registration desk in the main entrance. Please use the **Cloakroom** which will be signed and available for coats, jackets and luggage.

**Timing:** The registration desk will open at 08.30 for exhibitors only and from 09.15 for everyone else, when tea & coffee will also be available. The conference itself will commence at **10.00** sharp in the Lecture Theatre – so please don't be late. The Lecture Theatre programme will finish at 17.50.

**Lunch:** the canteen will **NOT** be open for buying lunch as in previous years, but you are welcome to bring a packed lunch and eat it there. **But** if everyone goes at once it will be overcrowded. If you go along and there are no seats, please go back 20 minutes later. Don't worry, it is a long lunch break and there is plenty of time for everyone.

**Tea & Coffee:** will be provided *throughout the day* (including lunchtime) in the Exhibition Room & at the reception in the main entrance. At either station, please get served and move along quickly. If there is a big queue in the Exhibition Room station, please head along to the reception station, or browse Summerfield books or the exhibits before having coffee. (The breaks are half an hour long.)

**Attendance:** Remember that attending any of the talks is entirely optional - you are very welcome to take time out during any part of the programme to view exhibits, visit Summerfield Books, etc. If you do plan to leave mid-session please try to sit on the front row or an end seat near the door.

**Exhibition:** Read the abstracts beforehand and make sure you don't miss any particularly interesting exhibits. Thank you to all our exhibitors who contributed this year! There will be an **Identification Help Table** set up, so remember to bring specimens that you need ID help along with a note of who collected it and where and when it was collected.

**ID Mini-workshops:** Remember to come prepared with hand lens, notepad and pencil. Delegates on the 'Introduction to *Sphagnum*' workshop should also bring a x20 hand lens if they have one. Delegates on the 'Using Your Smartphone for Botanical Imaging' workshop should remember their smartphone! Delegates attending the 'Using the BSBI Recording App' and 'Introduction to the BSBI's Plant Distribution Database' may also wish to bring a smartphone, tablet or other device. You can head to [BSBI: Recording app](#) to find out how to access the App, and to [BSBI: DDb](#) to find out how to access the Distribution Database (DDb). Don't worry though, this will also be covered in the workshops! BSBI members wishing to use the Recording App and the DDb can head to [BSBI: Members' Access](#) and scroll down to register for a DDb login (if they haven't already got one), but there is no requirement to have this to attend the workshops.

**Photographic Competition:** Please take time to peruse the [photographic competition](#) entries in the Exhibition Hall and vote for your favourite in each of the three classes before 15.45. The winners will be announced at 17.35.

**Summerfield Books:** Check out their lovely selection of botanical and natural history books and hand lenses.

**Conference Dinner:** If you are attending the conference dinner, this will be held at the [Loon Fung Chinese Restaurant](#), commencing at 18:30 and finishing around 21:00.